Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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CONFIDENTIAL MOSCOW 6556

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD EEWT UR NATO

SUBJECT: ECONADS: SOVIET VIEW ON DETENTE AND TRADE

REF: USNATO 2632

- 1. ARTICLE CIRCULATED BY CANADIANS STRIKES US AS UP-TO-DATE VERSION OF STANDARD SOVIET PITCH EXTOLLING BENEFITS OF EAST-WEST TRADE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. IT INCLUDES THE USUAL EXAGGERATIONS AND HYPERBOLE (PARAS BEGINNING QTE THIS CAN BE GRAPHICALLY SEEN ... UNQTE, QTE BUT THE SCOPE OF SOVIET-US TRADE... UNQTE, AND QTE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US...UNTQE) AND IS INTENDED FOR CONSUMPTION BY SOVIET DOMESTIC AUDIENCES AS MUCH AS BY FOREIGNERS.
- 2. AS EXPRESSION OF TYPICAL SOVIET JUSTIFICATION FOR USSR'S READINESS TO RELAX EXTENSIONS THROUGH TRADE, ARTICLE REFLECTS CURRENT LIMITS OF SOVIET PUBLIC CONCEPT OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IMPLICIT IN CASTING OF ARTICLE IS CHARACTERISTIC REFUSAL TO SEE TRADE WITH INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES OUTSIDE STRICT BILATERAL FRAMEWORK: SEEMING TO ENVISION USSR AS RICH HEIRESS PURSUED BY RIVAL CAPITALIST SUITORS EAGER TO COMPETE FOR HER FAVORS, SOVIETS DESCRIBE BEFEFITS CONFIDENTIAL

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OF TRADE FOR USSR IN TERMS OF INCREASINGLY ADVANTAGEOUS

BILATERAL TRANSACTIONS CONCLUDED UNDER STIMULUS PRODUCED BY THIS RIVALRY.

3. TO THIS TIME SOVIETS HAVE NOT CHOSEN TO RECOGNIZE POSSIBILITIES FOR MULTILATERAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM AREAS, ENERGY OR FOOD FOR EXAMPLE. IN EMBASSY'S VIEW SUCH APPARENT BLINDNESS RESULTS AS MUCH FROM MOSCOW'S PRESENT UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHICH TACTICS TOWARD THESE ISSUES WILL MAXIMIZE MINIMUM GAINS FOR SOVIET UNION AS FROM WANT OF PERCEPTIVITY.

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